

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/955,188

Examiner

Jerome Grant II

Applicant(s)

OKUYAMA, HIROYUKI

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12-26-2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ~~04-17-2005~~ 9/19/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-4 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... a level converting unit which generates a strength modulation signal in order to convert a level of said image data into a value different for each area on the basis of the edge information from said edge detecting unit..."

Claims 5-9 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "...a level converting unit which generates a strength modulation signal in order to convert a level of said image data into a value different for each area on the basis of the edge information from said edge detection unit."

Claims 10-13 are allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... a second level converting unit which is provided with said image data whose level is converted by said first level converting unit so as to extend a dynamic range of said image data and said image data detected as a character/line art area by said edge detecting unit, and which converts levels of these image data..."

Claim 14 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach in claimed combination, "... a level converting unit which is provided with given image data and edge information thereof and which generates a strength modulation signal in order to convert a level of said image data into a value different for reach area on the basis of the given image data and the edge information thereof."

Claim 15 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "... a level converting unit which generates a strength modulation signal in order to convert a level of said image data into a value different for each area on the basis of the edge information from said edge detecting unit."

Claim 16 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach or suggest in claimed combination, "...a level converting unit which generates a strength modulation signal in order to convert a level of said image data into a value different for reach area on the basis of the edge information from said edge detecting unit."

Clam 17 is allowed for the reason the prior art does not teach a second level converting unit which is provided with the image data whose level is converted so as

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to extend a dynamic range of said image data and said image data detected as a character/line art area by said edge detecting unit and which converts levels of these image data."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 571-272-7463. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A Williams, can be reached on 571-272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. Grant II

 JEROME GRANT II
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